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Bangalore Mirror

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CITY / PAGE 3

CALL DROPPED

Phones' seizure at Parappana Agrahara jail shows prisoners using gadgets, while residents of areas in 1-km radius cut off by jammers

CITY / PAGE 4

SUN RISES

BBMP gets go-ahead to invite applications to set up floating solar panels on lakes for production of clean and renewable energy

With 52,577 signal-jumping cases in city in Jan 2025, seems like city's motorists are in a tearing hurry. While most violations are captured on CCTV, obscured number plates create hurdles in complete crackdown

NO SIGN OF STOPPING

Driver goes to cops with dashboard footage, but no action taken as plate not visible

| Sanjana S
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A car driver had a scary experience in Banashankari after a reckless biker jumped a traffic signal, collided with his vehicle, and fled the scene. Despite possessing dashcam footage of the incident, the driver found himself at a dead end as the police refused to act, citing an obscured number plate as a major obstacle in identifying the violator.

The incident, which took place under the jurisdiction of the Banashankari police station, has raised serious concerns about accountability and enforcement of traffic laws in the city.

According to sources, the car owner approached the police with the footage, hoping for action against the biker who had not only caused damage to his vehicle but also violated road safety norms. However, the authorities dismissed his complaint, stating that without a legible number plate, pursuing the case would be futile.

Traffic signal jumping is a persistent issue in the city. Latest figures from January 2025 show that Bengaluru recorded 52,577 signal-jumping cases, following hundreds of thousands in previous years. Each of these violations represents a potential accident, a near miss,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"It occurs mainly due to irresponsibility of motorists. In most instances, the cases are traced, as they are either recorded or fines are generated through AI cameras —Traffic official

READ THE SIGN, BE KIND

As transport depts told to display slogans on animal welfare on vehicles, activists give thumbs-up to coexistence

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A circular from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways suggesting state transport departments display slogans on animal welfare on public transport vehicles has caught the eyes of Bengaluru's animal welfare workers and activists.

The circular dated February 25 is issued based on multiple requests to the Ministry to promote compassion towards animals and their safety on roads. The Ministry has proposed the slogan 'Be Kind to animals' and, equivalent to Hindi or the State's language, be placed on all public transport vehicles.

Animal welfare workers say it is a heartwarming move that will send the message of kindness and co-existence to all.

"This kind of collaboration to spread the message of kindness and co-existence is all that we need. Earlier public transport primarily buses used to carry slogans around polio which is completely eradicated. Likewise, we hope one day hatred and fear around animals completely go

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Crafted jewels

Hi Life Jewels is bringing an exclusive showcase in a luxury event which will present an exquisite collection of fine jewellery, from timeless classics to contemporary designs Whether you are searching for statement jewellery or subtle elegance, Hi Life Jewels aims to offer a selection that caters to every taste and occasion. **Where: Taj West End, Race Course Road; When: February 28 to March 2, 10 am to 8 pm**

02 Drama unfolds

Prestige Centre for Performing Arts is presenting Chuguru, its first Kannada Theatre Festival. The festival will feature six original productions by prominent theatre groups from Bengaluru, providing a platform for fresh narratives and creative storytelling. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: March 7 to 9 and 14 to 16, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

03 Musical evening

Padma Bhushan KS Chithra is set to perform at a multilingual concert that offers the magic of her timeless melodies across multiple languages, bringing together the best of classical, contemporary, and regional music in a single event. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: March 9, 6 pm**

04 Book launch

Atta Galatta is organising a book release for No Place to Call My Own, an intimate portrait of millennial disquiet in a mercurial, volatile world, with author Alina Gufran, who will be in conversation with acclaimed poet Jeet Thayil. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 1, 6 pm**

05 Artistic expression

Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is presenting Memory Vessels, an art installation by internationally acclaimed Dutch artist Bouke de Vries. Through the installation, de Vries challenges traditional notions of restoration, embracing imperfection to create sculptures that redefine beauty. **Where: Museum of Art & Photography, Ashok Nagar; When: Open since February 20**

New custody guidelines to be ready in 2-3 months

Petition submitted to HC advocates for evaluation of children's psychological state before custody decisions and need for accountability measures, amongst other suggestions for guidelines

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The Central Government, on Thursday, informed the Karnataka High Court about its ongoing process to establish guidelines for child custody matters, with an expected completion timeline of two to three months.

During the hearing of a suo motu petition, a division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun instructed the Union to submit an affidavit detailing the timeline and procedures for finalising the guidelines, scheduling the next hearing for March 19.

The petition highlighted how cross-border migration has intensified personal conflicts between adults, with traditional resolution methods proving inadequate. It noted that children often become victims of custody disputes, which frequently stem from adults' injured pride, rather than children's welfare. Stressing the importance of providing children with secure and stable conditions for healthy development, it also addressed various custody scenarios, including marital separations, relocations, neglect cases, and claims from extended family members.

The petition identified inconsistencies in the definition of "natural guardian" across different personal laws. It advocated for guidelines that consider this variation whilst properly evaluating children's psychological state before custody decisions. It suggested establishing facilities with qualified experts for proper evaluation. The petition also emphasised that custodians must ensure children's comprehensive well-being, including access to fundamental rights like education, food, shelter, sanitation, and healthcare. Additionally, it stressed the need for accountability measures to prevent adverse effects on children's development.

State government served notice regarding new appointments

The Karnataka High Court issued a notice to the State Government on Thursday, regarding a public interest litigation challenging the appointments to committees responsible for implementing the five guarantee schemes at state, district and BBMP levels.

Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun, forming a division bench, directed the state government to respond to the petition filed by police personnel P Rajeev by March 27.

Senior Advocate Aruna Shyam, representing the petitioner, contended that whilst the Chairman and Vice Chairman were granted positions of Cabinet Rank and State Minister status respectively, the appointees turned out to be Congress party workers. The petition also pointed out that these positions came with financial benefits, including salary and perks equivalent to Cabinet Rank and State Ministers. Additionally, these appointees would have significant influence in implementing schemes of public importance. The petition raised concerns about the educational qualifications of the appointees, suggesting potential detriment to public interest.

HC rejects plea to quash withdrawal of cases, seeks State's reaction

The High Court sought the State government's response regarding a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the Congress administration's directive to withdraw 43 criminal prosecutions, including those related to the 2022 Hubballi riots.

Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun noted that the petitioner presented a strong prima facie case, and scheduled the next hearing for March 17. Lawyer Girish Bharadwaj filed the petition, asserting that the State lacks the authority to issue such directives to public prosecutors. He referenced Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), which grants public prosecutors final authority in prosecution withdrawals.

State lacks authority to issue such directive to public prosecutors, says petitioner

Advocate Venkatesh Dalwai, representing the petitioner, cited Supreme Court rulings establishing that prosecutors' offices should function independently without state pressure to withdraw cases.

The cases include the Hubballi riots, where Muslim protesters allegedly threw chappals at a police station, and vandalised property following unrest triggered by an inflammatory social media post. Reports indicate that cases against farmer leaders and Kannada activists are also proposed for withdrawal.

— BMB

KIADB to transfer Hebbal land?

The state government has scheduled a high-level meeting on Friday, led by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Minister MB Patil, to resolve the land acquisition deadlock for Bengaluru Metro's Phase 3 project. The meeting, involving the Urban Development Department and the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB), will determine whether Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) can proceed with its proposed Multi-Modal Transport Hub in Hebbal. Despite a previous discussion in October 2023, a decision on transferring 45 acres of land to BMRCL was not finalized. Experts believe real estate lobbying could be hindering the handover, making the outcome of this meeting crucial. Prominent figures, including MP Shobha Karandlaje and businessman Mohandas Pai, have urged the state government to expedite the land transfer for the Metro project.

Sources said the land was originally acquired by KIADB in 2000, for a company. As the company failed to develop it, BMRCL bought 6,712.97 sq mt at the rate set by KIADB. Now, it seeks an extra 45 acres for expansion for its Phase 3 project. — BMB

Nutrient-rich mushroom variant to tackle Alzheimer

A breakthrough in mushroom research has led to the introduction of varieties with powerful medicinal properties, including those that aid in controlling Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and calcium deficiency. The Lion's Mane mushroom has been developed to help prevent neuron damage, and manage Alzheimer's by preserving brain and nerve cell function. This mushroom contains essential nutrients that strengthen affected nerves and support cognitive health.

According to an Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) official, regular consumption of the Elm Oyster mushroom has been found to aid the restoration of calcium balance in the body, particularly benefitting

those with calcium deficiency. "This variety is processed using high-pressure vacuum technology to enhance its benefits. Additionally, Oyster mushrooms have gained popularity for their health benefits. Mushrooms, in general, are rich in fiber, potassium, vitamin D, and proteins, making them a valuable addition to a healthy diet," the official said. The official noted that the IIHR has also developed Arka Tender

Lion's Mane mushroom contains nutrients that strengthen affected nerves and support cognitive health

Chock, a jackfruit-based kebab, which is high in fiber, suitable even for diabetics and vegetarians. "IIHR has pioneered new technology to create jackfruit-based pizza and burgers, which can be preserved for up to a year and are available in a ready-to-eat format," the official added.

IIHR officials claimed that Shiitake mushroom has proven effective in boosting immunity in cancer patients, particularly those undergoing chemotherapy. They highlighted that it also helps regulate body fat and supports diabetes management. IIHR has conducted extensive research to facilitate the large-scale cultivation of this mushroom. C Chandrashekhar, Senior Scientist, Mushroom Division, IIHR, said that currently there are 110 varieties of mushrooms in IIHR's collection, with 12 specially researched strains, available for commercial cultivation. "The demand for mushroom seeds is particularly high in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Goa, and Puducherry, with an annual sale of 40-50 tons. Customers can purchase anywhere between 1 kg to 250 kg of seeds per order," he said.

— Sridhar Vivan

All lines in this route are jammed

10 phones recovered from Central Prison in February, but residents of areas around can't use phones due to jammers

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Those living within 1-km radius of Central Prison are affected

Mobile phones continue to ring in the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison and the residents around still continue to suffer due to the jammers. In February alone, authorities have recovered more than 10 mobile phones from the barracks of high-security central prisons, raising serious concerns over the effectiveness of multi-layer security checks.

Despite high-tech jammers installed to curb the use of mobile devices, inmates continue to use them. Meanwhile, these jammers have wreaked havoc in the lives of the working-class community and students residing near Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

Residents living within a 1-km radius of the jail have expressed their frustration over persistent mobile network disruptions caused by the high-powered T-HCBS jammer. In a letter addressed to the prison chief, they have sought urgent intervention, highlighting how their daily lives are being severely impacted which they will be submitting today.

"The situation here is worsening. In 2024, we raised a complaint and petition, prompting the DGP to call for a meeting in July. The meeting included representatives from TRAI, telecom service providers, and residents from affected areas. While the issue was temporarily optimised, after Darshan's arrest and entry into the jail, the problem has intensified, now impacting a 1-km radius. Previously, only the surrounding areas were affected. Digital transactions like UPI no longer work, forcing us to rely on credit cards. With exams approaching, students will also face difficulties. This has been going on for a year now," a resident of the area told BM.

Demand for resolution

The residents are now demanding a concrete timeline for resolution and adequate compensation for their losses. They have also called for a investigation into the compliance of telecom operators with regulatory measures. A request for an urgent meeting with the prison authorities has been made, where residents plan to present a report on their grievances and attempts at resolution.

The letter, supported by several affected residents, details the challenges faced due to these disruptions which was submitted to the Director General (DG) of Prisons and Correctional Services on Sunday. The letter highlights how the residents within a 1-km radius of the jail face communication breakdown with dropped calls make it difficult to reach emergency services like ambulances and police stations, OTP failures and UPI payment disruptions, work and education at risk where students struggle with online classes, while tech professionals report job losses due to connectivity issues during remote meetings.

Police station hiccup

Even the police station near the jail is facing network outages, affecting their ability to dispatch units and receive emergency calls.

Dr. Vaishnavi K, Officer on Special Duty at the Chief Minister's Office, responded to a resident's tweet regarding the issue, stating that the department is overseeing the matter. "There are some technical clarifications to be addressed, including communication between jammer vendors, prison authorities, telecom service providers, and TSP operators. A meeting has been scheduled for March 4. The department is working on it. We have received complaints from residents, all of which have been documented and attached. I have also included my letter to the prison authorities," she told BM, adding that the minister's office has also been informed and they have instructed the DGP Prison to look into it.

Ready for Police Run?

Bengaluru is all set to witness a spirited marathon as over 10,000 participants gear up for the much-anticipated Police Run, scheduled for March 9. Organised in collaboration with the Police Department and State Bank of India (SBI) to commemorate the golden jubilee of the State Police, this year's event carries the theme "Namma Police Namma Hemme".

Unveiling the official T-shirts, race booklets, and medals at the police headquarters on Thursday, DG-IGP Alok Mohan said the event is also a platform to promote green Bengaluru, a drug-free Karnataka, cybercrime awareness and more. **-BMB**

7 held in Haider Ali murder

Seven individuals arrested including two rowdy-sheeters, in connection with the brutal murder of Haider Ali, which was allegedly driven by old enmity and political rivalry. The 29th ACMM Court in Bengaluru has remanded the accused to judicial custody until March 11.

The arrested individuals include Rowdy Rizwan from Shivamogga and Rowdy Nayaz Pasha from Ashoknagar. A special police team was formed to investigate the case, and after thorough inquiries, seven suspects were apprehended. Authorities continue search for other key suspects. **-BMB**

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Sunny side up for solar project in city's lakes

Authority gives go-ahead to BBMP to invite expressions of interest from companies for green energy set-up

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The Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) has authorised the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to invite expressions of interest for installing solar panels on city lakes. The Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Management Cell of the Palike has initiated the installation of floating solar panels on lakes to generate clean, renewable energy.

"We received a request from BBMP stating that 20 MW of electricity can be generated through floating solar panels. BBMP plans to invite an Expression of Interest for the project. We have granted principal clearance with certain conditions, but execution will require additional approval based on a feasibility study," said KTCDA Director BK Pavitra.

The proposal was sent by BBMP nearly a month ago stating FPV will not only reduce lake pollution but will also generate electricity that can be used for purposes such as maintaining the lakes and powering street lights in the surrounding areas.

KTCDA, in the permission letter, has cautioned BBMP to take necessary measures in case of flooding of the water bodies. While installing the solar panel, action should be taken to ensure that the water flows smoothly into the lake without blocking the water source(s) flowing into the lake.

The Authority also warned that lake flooding could damage the solar panels. To prevent this, the panels should be installed within the lake yard with appropriate spacing. If the lake is encroached upon, work should begin only after clearing the encroachment. Moreover, it has prohibited BBMP from altering the original nature of the lake. BBMP has also been instructed to arrange for scientific disposal of waste and payment of 25% of the proceeds to the Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority.

(File photo) Authority warns lake flooding may damage solar panels, urges proper spacing and encroachment removal

> **"Our lakes are already choking with sewage, and adding solar panels could further harm remaining ecosystem**
> – Dr TV Ramachandra, IISc

19 lakes suitable for FPV: Study

The preliminary assessment of Bengaluru's lakes for the project has been conducted by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP) through a GIS-based assessment. The analysis shows that there are 19 perennial lakes in Bengaluru with a total capacity to generate 20.8MW of energy by covering a 1.25 square kilometre area.

"The GIS assessment on the available database and certain criteria of the city's lakes was conducted and we have shortlisted 19 perennial lakes with a total capacity to generate 20.8MW of energy. However, an in-depth study on every shortlisted water body has to be conducted. We need to consider various factors such as lake topography, distance of the lake from BESCOM grid, apart from carrying out environmental impact assessment of all 19 locations before going ahead," said Saptak Ghosh, Senior Policy Specialist and lead of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy domain at CSTEP.

Experts point to literature surveys on Floating Photovoltaic deployment that show that the overall impact on aquatic ecosystems is neither negative nor positive when 10% of the surface area is covered with FPV. However, city-based ecologists and researchers say, Bengaluru's lakes are different due to the large amount of sewage that they hold.

"We need to understand the ecological impact of FPVs on Bengaluru's lakes before proceeding. Even if only 10% of the surface is covered, the effects might differ from general expectations. Our lakes are already choking with sewage, and adding solar panels could further harm the remaining ecosystem," said Dr TV Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc. City-based environmentalists have also raised concerns about the impact of solar panels on microclimate.

Volunteers revamp school for better learning

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Around 60 volunteers and students came together on Sunday to beautify the Government Lower Primary School in Metipalya, South Bengaluru. The school building, neglected for over two decades, was in urgent need of painting and repairs. Despite its condition, little action had been taken by education department officials and the school development and monitoring committee. "I was transferred to this school six months ago after serving at the Government Lower Primary School in Lakshmipura for 21 years. Two months ago, I reached out to Youth for Parivarthan for help in beautifying the school building. Now, thanks to their efforts, the building has been transformed, and many, including villagers, have appreciated the improvement," said T Veena, Headmistress.

The volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan visited the school recently to plan the beautification project. "Our sub-committee members assessed the material requirements during their visit. On Sunday morning, school children joined us in the effort. The painting and cleaning of the school building began at 7:30 am and was completed by 1:30 pm," said Anantha Kashyap, committee member of Youth for Parivarthan.

The school building after beautification

Feeling proud of contributing to the cleaning and painting of the school building, Rakshitha G S from KR Puram expressed her happiness about the experience. "I joined Youth for Parivarthan as an intern in 2023, and now I am a volunteer," she said. Appreciating the volunteers for painting the school building, Uma C, President of the School Development and Monitoring Committee, said the building now looks clean and well-maintained. "I sincerely thank all the volunteers for their efforts in beautifying the school," said Headmistress Veena.

> **"Thanks to their efforts, the building has been transformed and improved**
> – T Veena, headmistress

M Muniraju from Varthur said the school building was in poor condition until last year. "Now, it looks clean and well-maintained, creating a better environment for students to focus on their education. I appreciate the headmistress for taking this initiative," he said. Amith Amarnath, Founder and President of Youth for Parivarthan, emphasised that education is the foundation of a better future, and every child deserves an inspiring learning environment. He stated that the volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan believe a well-maintained school enhances the learning experience and instils pride in students and the community. "The transformation of Government Lower Primary School in Metipalya showcases the power of collective effort. We are grateful to our volunteers, CSR partner Synamedia India Private Limited, and the school staff for their support in making this vision a reality," he said.

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Unsafe streets

Nandini Layout

BBMP or BWSSB staff left a dangerous one-foot-high heap of mud on the road after drain repairs near BHEL Park in Nandini Layout.

Pedestrian risk

Rajajinagar

The footpath near Suguna Hospital, Dr Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, is in a pathetic state.

Road danger

Marathahalli

Broken slabs near Marathahalli market are a safety hazard.

Roads planned along stormwater drains

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar stated that Bengaluru will witness the construction of 160 km of elevated corridors and 300 km of roads along buffer zones of stormwater drains. He mentioned that 51 infrastructure projects are being undertaken in phases, which require time for completion.

Responding to BJP's protest against the tunnel road project in 28 constituencies, Shivakumar said, "I am committed to providing long-term solutions for Bengaluru's development. When the previous government proposed the steel bridge, the BJP opposed it. Let them continue their criticism; I welcome it. Let them discuss this matter in the assembly."

Forum pushes for faster roadwork

The Kempegowda Layout Open Forum has urged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to adopt a multi-agency approach for asphalting roads in six blocks of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL), similar to the model used in the Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout.

The BDA recently floated a tender with a 24-month timeline for asphalting roads in these six blocks. However, the Open Forum criticised the BDA for delaying basic infrastructure development, leaving site owners unable to construct their homes for the past eight years due to a lack of essential facilities. The forum expressed frustration over BDA's repeated false assurances and slow progress.

Parking scam at SMVT: ₹500 for 37 minutes!

Advocate alleges fraud, and overcharging; files complaint, but illegal fee collection continues unchecked

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Allegations of overcharging and fraudulent receipt issuance have surfaced at the SMVT Railway Terminal, with a city-based advocate, Timothy Charles, filing a complaint against parking attendants for extortion and criminal intimidation. Despite an FIR being registered, no concrete action has been taken, and the accused continues to collect illegal fees from unsuspecting visitors.

Exorbitant fees and manipulated receipts

The incident took place on February 20 when Charles visited the SMVT Terminal to receive his parents, who arrived on the Nagercoil-SMVT Express (Train No 17236) at 9:30 am. Upon entering the designated parking lot, he was issued an entry slip,

and after parking his car, the attendant demanded ₹100 as a parking fee—an amount far exceeding the usual rate.

Sensing something amiss, Charles requested a receipt. Another attendant, dressed in a blue shirt, issued a manipulated receipt in which the vehicle number field was replaced with the amount paid. When Charles questioned the legitimacy of the receipt, the attendant initially refunded ₹50 but then demanded the receipt back. When Charles refused, a heated argument broke out, during which the attendant allegedly assaulted him.

The situation escalated when Charles warned the attendants that he would report the matter to railway authorities. In response, one of the accused claimed that he had paid bribes to railway officials, implying that no action would be taken against him. Charles gathered evidence, including video recordings of the attendants overcharging other customers, and his dashboard camera recordings which clearly state his entry and exit timings along with the receipts and submitted it to the police.

FIR registered but no action taken

Following the complaint, the police registered an FIR against two unidentified parking attendants for extortion, petty organised crime, cheating and other sections under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). However, despite this legal action, Charles discovered during a follow-up visit that the attendants were still operating freely, continuing to charge excessive fees.

On his second visit, he was asked to pay ₹500 for just 37 minutes of parking. This time, station authorities intervened and attempted to seize the attendants' machines, but no further action was taken.

There have been previous complaints on social media from various individuals alleging overcharging for parking. While the official rate for the first two hours is ₹20, some attendants are reportedly demanding ₹50 or even ₹100.

The advocate has urged authorities to conduct a investigation, emphasising that the fraudulent issuance of receipts constitutes a serious breach of financial accountability. Despite clear evidence and a police complaint, the lack of enforcement raises concerns about the extent of corruption in the system.

BBMP sets ₹5,600 crore tax target

Despite implementing a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme waiving interest and penalties on pending property taxes, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) failed to meet its ₹5,210 crore target for the current financial year. Now, BBMP has set an ambitious target of ₹5,600 crore for property tax collection in 2025-26. Under the OTS scheme, over two lakh property owners have yet to clear their dues. As a result, BBMP has initiated measures to seize and auction defaulters' properties. Even after such actions, the civic body fell short of its 2024-25 collection goal.

New strategies

According to officials BBMP plans to collaborate with BESCOM to access data on commercial buildings. Some properties have been misclassified as residential units to pay lower taxes. By obtaining accurate data, BBMP aims to bring 2-3 lakh properties under the tax net. Officials estimate that by integrating new properties and correcting underreported ones, BBMP could generate an additional ₹1,000 crore in property tax revenue, helping achieve the ₹5,600 crore target.

Seizures and auctions

An official said, "In 2024-25, BBMP seized 9,000 properties of tax defaulters and attached the bank accounts of 83,000 property owners. Over 600 properties were auctioned, contributing to tax revenue. By February 2025, the civic body had collected around ₹3,500 crore in property tax, which has now increased to ₹4,500 crore."

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

Love pizza? say cheese for more flavour

If cheesy pizza is your forever BAE, then why not get the cheese blend right so you can make your own at home whenever you want. If you've been trying to replicate that stretchy, creamy, cheesy pizza at home, try a mix of these cheeses that you're sure to love.

Cheddar

Cheddar cheese has a sharp taste, and while it isn't mostly used as a standalone cheese on pizza, it's found in several cheese blends. This makes it one of the best cheeses for pizza.

Mozzarella

Undeniably everyone's favourite, mozzarella cheese can be used on its own for a deliciously cheesy pizza at home. Being a versatile cheese, mozzarella blends well with several other kinds of cheese. Choose between high-moisture or low-moisture mozzarella– the former has a shorter shelf life and light flavour, while the latter has a dense flavour and melts faster when baked.

Ricotta

This cheese is the base for white sauce pizzas and is blended with other cheeses like mozzarella and gruyere for that creamy richness.

Parmesan

Parmesan is a hard cheese that can be shredded or shaved on top of baked pizzas. Avoid baking it as heat can destroy its taste.

Goat Cheese

This cheese doesn't melt but softens up very nicely when baked. You can add goat cheese in bits on the top of your pizza, once you've added the other cheese blends. Goat cheese tastes delicious on caramelised onion and spinach pizza.

Provolone

Depending on how long it's been aged, the flavour of this semi-hard cheese varies greatly. As with most cheeses, provolone that's been aged for a longer period is sharper in taste and drier in texture. If you want a sweet, creamy cheese, go for shorter-aged provolone.

Gruyere

This hard yellow Swiss cheese starts with a sweet taste but ends with a nutty and earthy flavour owing to it being cured in brine. It melts very well.

–Femina

Furore after elephant made to walk in night procession

Organiser of event claims they had permission, but officials say they had only okayed presence of jumbo at event, call it violation of norm

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Organisers of events are making it a trend to use elephants in religious and social functions, despite restrictions on use of animals. Animal activists' efforts to prevent the use of elephants in religious processions at night have largely been in vain.

According to documents available with Bangalore Mirror, Uday M of the Jaanajaaneyara Reception Committee, sought permission from the forest department to bring captive elephant Laxmi during Shivaratri celebrations on Wednesday night. He requested permission for the elephant to be part of a procession from Binnypet Circle to Chikka Lalbagh. However, Subhash K Malkhede, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), only permitted the elephant's presence at the event while barring use of the elephant in the procession.

"I clearly told the organisers not to use the elephant in the procession at night. It is a violation of norms. I will take suitable action after receiving a report from my subordinates," Malkhede said.

Despite this, it is believed that the organisers went ahead with the procession, making the elephant walk from Binnypet Circle to Chikka Lalbagh. When questioned, Uday claimed he had taken permission and that forest officials accompanied the elephant. However, when asked if he had read the letter, he insisted he had done nothing wrong.

A captive elephant is paraded in a Bengaluru religious procession, defying regulations

Animal activists call for strict action against those involved to ensure such incidents are not repeated

The event also featured well-known astrologer Anand Guruji. Initially, there was a plan to have him ride the elephant during the procession, but the idea was reportedly dropped after forest officials objected. "I attended the function as an invitee. There was a proposal that I ride the elephant along with the idol of Vishwanath, but I preferred to accompany the sadhus instead," Anand Guruji said.

Sources suggest that the proposal was cancelled only after forest officials intervened. Deputy Conservator of Forests (Bangalore Urban) N Ravindra Kumar confirmed he received reports of the elephant being used in the procession. "I deputed a range forest officer to the spot after receiving the information. I will submit a report to higher authorities after receiving the RFO" he said.

This incident comes just days after Bangalore Mirror reported that the PCCF had canceled permission for an elephant to be used at a religious event in Kolar. While activists welcomed that decision, they are now expressing outrage over the latest violation.

Animal activist Sujaya criticised the continued use of elephants in public processions. "Elephants are subjected to physical punishment, cramped living conditions, and loud noises, which cause them immense stress and discomfort. Moreover, they can become unpredictable and pose a danger to spectators. Despite laws prohibiting the capture of wild elephants, they continue to be exploited. Those responsible should be brought to justice," she said.

THEORY OF COEXISTENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

away. Anything to be successful requires mass awareness and collective public will. this is a step in that direction," said Harini Raghavan, Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

Some say the slogan should also sport a link to a hotline number of that city's municipality or a leading non-profit in the field of animal welfare.

"This is similar to the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao movement. The difference is, the action was very clear: Send the girl child to school and college. But it is complicated in the case of animal welfare because more often than not, people do not know how to be kind to animals. Those who do, find it hard to translate it to actions. Often, they may not even realise that they are being cruel. What people want to know is: How can I help myself or the animal? Therefore, every slogan should also sport a link to a hotline number of that city's municipality and/or leading NGOs. Also, a link to a central website with myths and tips on handling animals will help the cause further," said Nandita Subbarao, civic activist.

Link to website with tips on handling animals would also help

The circular

The slogan with the minimum height of each character as 150mm will be placed on the exterior of the vehicles for wider publicity. The circular also states that depending on the colour of the vehicle, the colour of the font may be selected in such a way as to enhance the readability received. The slogan can be painted or can be put in the form of a sticker.

As suggested, the slogan may be placed on all public transport vehicles from April 1, 2025.

City airport unveils India's largest greenfield domestic cargo terminal

Kempegowda International Airport has launched the country's largest Greenfield Domestic Cargo Terminal (DCT) by design capacity. Spanning 2,45,000 square feet, the facility is a major boost to BLR Airport's cargo operations, enhancing infrastructure and streamlining processes to meet growing domestic demand.

Satyaki Raghunath, COO of Bangalore International Airport Limited, said the 7-acre terminal has a peak handling capacity of 3,60,000 metric tons, with potential expansion to 4,00,000 metric tons. Equipped with 42 truck docks, over 400 cargo bins, and conveyors integrated with X-ray machines, the facility also features real-time data capture through handheld terminals and self-service kiosks to improve efficiency and reduce turnaround times.

BLR Airport, a key exporter of perishables like mangoes and coriander, will now have expanded capacity for perishables and specialized storage for valuables, fragile cargo, live animals, dangerous goods, and radioactive materials. Charles Wyley of Menzies Aviation noted that with India's air cargo market expected to reach 5.8 million tonnes by 2029, the new facility is designed to meet both current and future demand. **-BMB**

Advanced infrastructure boosts cargo capacity at Bengaluru airport's new terminal

WhatsApp sales channel for fresh produce delivery

The Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society (HOPCOMS) is set to introduce a WhatsApp Sales Channel to deliver fresh fruits and vegetables directly to apartment residents. The initiative, launching in the first week of March, aims to improve accessibility to fresh produce while reducing wastage.

In the initial phase, HOPCOMS will supply fruits and vegetables to four or five apartment complexes as a pilot project. If successful, the service will be expanded citywide. A senior HOPCOMS official said the initiative is expected to cut daily wastage by nearly 30%.

Customers can scan a QR code to access a list of over 150 fruits and vegetables, updated prices, and discounts. Orders placed via WhatsApp will be delivered within 24 hours, with both online and cash-on-delivery payment options available.

HOPCOMS has already partnered with 50 apartment federations and is in talks with more. Each delivery vehicle will cater to three or four apartments daily. Customers who pre-book online will get discounts, while direct purchases from delivery vehicles won't have price reductions. To avoid losses, a minimum order requirement will be introduced for WhatsApp purchases. **-BMB**

'Retaining pension worse than dismissal'

The High Court has criticised authorities for retaining the entire pension and gratuity of a retired Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax employee for 13 years without proving corruption allegations, deeming it more severe than termination.

"The petitioner is now 73 years old. He has not seen the light of his terminal benefits, despite his retirement 13 years ago. He is left bleeding by the impugned penalty, which is worse than dismissal from service," stated the court whilst invalidating the order to withhold pension and gratuity.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the ruling in favour of Hanumanth N Karkun from Saptapur, Dharwad. In 2011, the petitioner faced charges of soliciting Rs 2,000 and accepting Rs 1,500 as a bribe for issuing a service tax registration certificate. The alleged Rs 1,500 was discovered on his desk, not on his person. He retired in 2012. The CBI, which assumed the investigation from Karnataka Lokayukta police, filed charges in 2013.

The departmental inquiry officer cleared the petitioner, but the disciplinary authority rejected this finding and ordered another investigation. The second inquiry also found insufficient evidence to prove the petitioner's lack of integrity. The disciplinary authority dismissed the second inquiry report and referred the case to the UPSC. In 2015, a trial court acquitted the petitioner of corruption charges, concluding that the prosecution failed to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

UPSC decision

In 2023, the UPSC advised the disciplinary authority to permanently withhold the petitioner's entire pension and gratuity. An appeal against this decision awaited hearing before the appellate authority. The court noted that legislation does not permit 100% pension withholding, adding that gratuity cannot be withheld as the petitioner was not dismissed, as complete or partial gratuity withholding applies only when employment is terminated for moral turpitude offences. —BMB

DEATH ON THE ROAD

91% of city's road crash victims were cyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians in 2023; number of fatalities highest since 2007

The Road Safety Report 2023, released by the traffic police on Thursday, point to an alarming surge in road accidents, making Bengaluru one of the most dangerous cities for non-motorised and two-wheeler users.

The report, launched by Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth, IPS, at a symposium on 'Strengthening Road Safety in Karnataka,' provides critical insights into Bengaluru's fatal crashes. It was prepared with technical support from Vital Strategies under the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS), with research contributions from Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit (JH-IIRU) and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS). —BMB

Here are some numbers

20%: Rise in pedestrian fatalities

24%: Increase in motorcyclist deaths as compared to 2022

824 of 921 fatalities: Pedestrians and two-wheeler riders (90% of all road fatalities in 2023)

894 fatal crashes led to 921 deaths: This is the highest since 2007, marking a 19% increase from 2022.

One-third of all fatalities: North Division; 23%: West Division; 22%: South Division (22%).

289: 1/3 of all fatalities were due to single-vehicle crashes, with 85% involving motorcyclists.

43 blackspots and 24 high-risk corridors identified that account for most of Bengaluru's road deaths.

What is a blackspot?
A blackspot is defined by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) as a 500-metre stretch of road where five fatal or serious injury crashes or 10 fatalities have occurred over three years.

Errant behaviour

31%: Vehicles exceeding speed limits. Highest speeding rate at 39%: Light motor vehicles; 37%: expressways

96% drivers acknowledged that speeding increases crash and injury risk, yet 73% admitted they felt comfortable exceeding speed limits, while 58% even felt safe doing so.

21% drivers know the limits and just 26% adhere to them

Only 34% of motorcyclists wore helmets correctly, and outside the city, helmet usage dropped drastically to 11%.

Seatbelt compliance was similarly inadequate, with only 46% of vehicle occupants using seat belts and an alarming 2% of children under 12 using proper restraints

Key recommendations

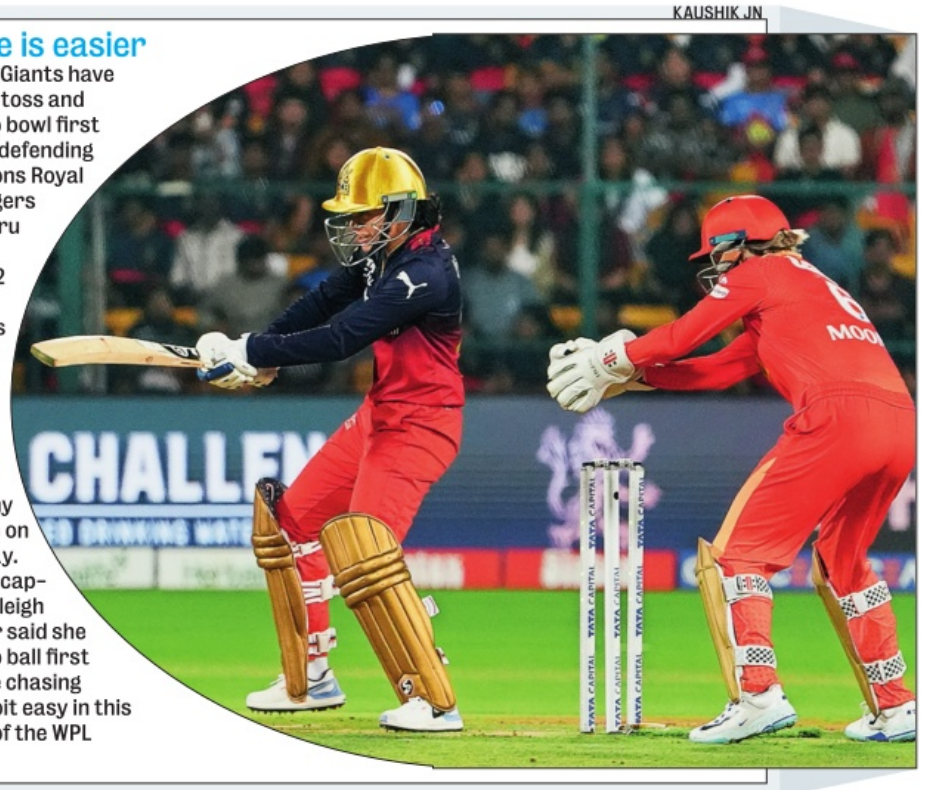
Redesign blackspots and high-risk corridors to improve road infrastructure
Strengthen enforcement of speed limits, helmet usage, and drink-driving regulations
Expand AI-driven surveillance to detect and penalise traffic violations effectively.
Public awareness campaigns must be intensified to encourage responsible driving behavior, while ensuring timely penalty payments to enhance compliance with road safety laws.
Urgent collaboration among policymakers, law enforcement, and road safety experts is essential.

> We are working with BBMP and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to enhance corridor-level safety, particularly for two-wheelers, which accounted for 59% of all fatalities in 2023
>
> —MN Anucheth

KAUSHIK JN

Chase is easier

Gujarat Giants have won the toss and opted to bowl first against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in Match 12 of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday. Gujarat captain Ashleigh Gardner said she chose to ball first because chasing looks a bit easy in this edition of the WPL edition.



While starving, reptiles take greater risk to find food

A recent study led by Maria Thaker, Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), shows that when some reptiles are starving, they take greater risks to achieve greater food rewards.

According to the risk-sensitive foraging hypothesis, when animals have a choice between a constant and a variable food source (which provides potentially higher amounts), animals prefer the constant food option when their energy levels are high or they are less hungry, and the variable option when their energy levels are low or they are starving. Scientists have tested this behavior in birds and mammals earlier, but not in reptiles.

Researchers say reptiles can slow down their metabolism a lot. So, in food-scarce times like winter, they go into torpor (hibernation) to avoid starving to death.

"In the tropics, however, reptiles are exposed to warm temperatures all year round and cannot slow their metabolism down enough to get through tough (food lean) times. We expected that lizards in the tropics should have evolved the ability to assess food options, because if they don't, they may risk starving to death," said Thaker.

In the current study, the researchers focused on tropical lizards called rock agamas which are also city-dwellers, found in and around urban areas like Bengaluru.

"We found that well-fed lizards played it safe.. On the other hand, starved lizards took greater risks.." said Avik Banerjee, PhD student at CES and co-author of the paper. —BMB

4,95,874 signal-jumping cases in 2024

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or a moment of heightened anxiety for fellow commuters.

According to traffic data, Bengaluru has been witnessing a sharp rise in signal-jumping cases over the years. In 2022, the city recorded 420,541 such violations. The numbers spiked to 1,088,276 in 2023, and 4,95,874 cases were logged in 2024. Reckless bikers often exploit loopholes in law enforcement to evade consequences. While CCTV cameras and dashcams have improved surveillance, the lack of clear identification due to tampered or missing number plates continues to be a major challenge for the authorities.

A traffic official told BM, "Such cases have reduced in the city. It occurs mainly due to irresponsibility of motorists. In most instances, the cases are traced, as they are either recorded or fines are generated through AI cameras."

A senior traffic official stated that 99% of traffic violation cases are successfully resolved. "There remains a small margin, around 1% where certain discrepancies or defects may arise. In such instances, issues related to number plate violations may occur, potentially leading to challenges in accurately identifying the vehicle or its owner," said a senior official.

For motorists other than the damage, it's the erosion of trust and the creation of a hazardous environment for all road users that is worrisome. "When a signal is ignored, the resulting chaos extends far beyond the point of impact. It disrupts the flow of traffic, forcing other drivers to make sudden, potentially dangerous maneuvers to avoid collisions. Pedestrians, who rely on the predictability of traffic signals for safe crossing, are placed at heightened risk," said a commuter.

Traffic experts say impatience, lack of awareness, and the assumption of not getting caught contribute to these violations. "Young riders may do it to show off, while empty roads and malfunctioning signals also play a role. Many simply follow others, worsening the issue," an official said.

Traffic experts argue that such cases set a dangerous precedent where signal violators, especially bikers, can escape unpunished. The effect on other commuters is palpable.

According to the Motor Vehicles Act, jumping a traffic signal is a serious offence, punishable by a fine of Rs 1,000 in most Indian states. In severe cases, it can lead to license suspension. Classified under Section 184 for dangerous driving, this violation is considered reckless. Traffic police enforce the rule using CCTV cameras at intersections to detect offenders and issue e-challans.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Srinivas Varadarajan Amrutur R/o B306, Brigade Omega, 80 Feet Road, Banashankari 6th Stage, Bengaluru 560061 have changed my minor son's name from Aaryan Alias Aaryan Srinivas to Aaryan Srinivas Amrutur.

I, SANTHOSHKUMAR J, Residing at 73, Kothakuppam Melalathur, Gudiyatham Vellore, Tamilnadu – 635806 have changed my name to SANTHOSHKUMAR, vide affidavit dated 03/02/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAGHUVENDRA PINNI SREERAMSETTY S/o Sreeramsetty Pinni R/o No. 2/1 Nandi Layout Sampige Nagar Road Kammasandra Electronic City Anekal Bangalore - 560100 have changed my name to Raghavendra PS for all purposes.

I Arshiya Banu Noorulla alias Arshiya Banu N W/O Syed Imran # 417 K.G.Halli Blore 45 change my name to Arshiya Banu for all purposes.

I, Siddlingayya Rudrayya Hiremath s/o Rudrayya, R/o No 529, 4th Cross, Vinayaka Hospital, Waevers Colony Gottigere Post, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to Siddalingayya Rudrayya Hiremath for all Purposes.

I, Ganesh Vishnuvardhan, S/o Krishnakumar Hariharan, R/at N0. 4300, Subramanya Nagar, Bangalore-560010 have changed my name to GANESH Y V VISHNUVARDHAN, Vide affidavit dt: 27-02-2025 before notary Natesh .D, Bangalore.

I, Maheta Jitendra Roshanlal S/o Roshanlal R/o C-1,21/47-7, Aishwarya Apts, 2nd Main Shivnagar Rajajinagar B'lore-560010 have changed my name to Maheta Jitendra.

I Yasmeen Akbari Khokhar W/o Akbari Taiyeb Khokhar R/o 25 36th F Cross 28th Main Jayanagar 4th T Block Bangalore 560041 Changed My Name As Yasmin Akbari Khokhar For All Future Purpose Vide Affidavit Dated 27-02-2025 Sworn Before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bengaluru

I, Neha Yashwant Jain W/o Arpith Mehta R/o Eta star the gardens C-1004, Binny mill circle, Magadi road, Bengaluru 560023 have changed my name to Neha Jain Affidavit Dt.27/02/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Radhik Ramaprasad R/o B-11, Uniworth Tranquil Apt, opp KSRTC workshop, Doddabele Road, Kengeri, B'luru 560060 have changed my name to Radhika Ramprasad Affidavit Dt.27/02/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Khatoon Rakiba, R/at No. 280/26, Hennur Enclave, Hennur Main Road, 2nd Cross, Near Bangalore International School, Geddalahalli, Bangalore-560077 Have Changed My Name to Rakiba Siddiqui, For All Purposes.

I Preeti Ramachandra Naik W/O, Maruti Harikant R/o Preeti Maruti Harikant 162/4 Ward A Head Bander Road Vannalli Kumta Uttara Kannada Karnataka 581343 have changed my name to Preeti Maruti Harikant

I, Mo Mahvva Faisal S/o, Mohamad Rizwan R/o No 78 1st Floor 5th Main Minhaj Nagar Jp Nagar Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Mahboob Faisal for all purposes.

I, Javeed Abdul Khalaq S/o Abdul Khalaq, R/o C-Block, Behind Post Office, Narasapura, Kolar-563133, Karnataka, have changed my name to Javeed Ahmed for all Purposes.

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Timings: 10.30 AM to 7 PM
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Oscars: Where to watch
The 97th Academy Award will take place on March 3, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California. In India, audiences can watch the ceremony live on Star Movies and JioHotstar from 5:30 am IST onwards

BangaloreMirror | 9
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

STRICT RULES

Sonakshi reveals glimpses from her upbringing: 'Curfew till age of 32'

Bollywood actor Sonakshi Sinha recently shared details about her strict upbringing, revealing that she had a curfew at home until the age of 32. She recalled amusing incidents of her mother keeping a close watch on her late-night outings. Sonakshi also reflected on how parent-child dynamics have evolved over time.

In an interview with Hautterfly, Sonakshi shared that Zaheer often found it frustrating, joking that she only broke curfew because of him.

Recalling her upbringing, Sonakshi said she lived in a fortress-like home, Ramayana, where her parents, Shatrughan and Poonam Sinha, kept a close watch. A strict telephone operator, Jha, would inform her parents the moment she arrived home. She even tried to bypass the system by asking her staff to stop Jha from calling, but her mother would still question her the next day.

Sonakshi added that while her mother often warned her about what her father would think, Shatrughan Sinha was actually the chillest person ever and never scolded her.

Sonakshi said that while her mother passed down valuable lessons, she has also helped her adapt to modern times. She shared, "In terms of conditioning, my mom tried a lot to mold me as someone who doesn't back-answer. They have also grown up in that environment, so it comes naturally. As a mother, she tried to pass it on. Now times have changed, generations have changed, and there are so many things that I teach her too." Professionally, Sonakshi Sinha has several web series lined up and will also appear in the South film 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu'. —ETimes

GIRL GANG TALK

They say that the bond that a girl's gang shares can't be simply put in words. However, Ananya Panday tried doing it as she spoke in length about the beautiful bond she shares with Suhana Khan, Shanaya Kapoor, and Navya Naveli Nanda in her recent interview.

In the interview with Vogue India, Navya asked Ananya how she takes care of herself given the hectic schedule and the 'CTRL' actress replied, "Talking to you is one way. No matter how busy I am, spending time with my friends over a meal or a meme is an immediate cure. I have two group chats: one with Suhana, Shanaya, and you, called Ananya's Fans, and the other with my school friends of 14 years called Oz, named after the first movie we watched together."

Ananya added that though she finds relatability in friends within the industry, her circle outside keeps her grounded. There are times she craves more alone time; especially since she started living by herself. Shedding more light on it, Ananya said, "I hated it initially and made sure my parents were always around. Now I enjoy simple pleasures like reading, watching a movie, or spending time with my dog, Riot". In the same conversations, as Ananaya shared about her bond with Suhana, she mentioned, "Our catch-ups and DMs still revolve around debating reality TV series like 'Too Hot To Handle' (2020-) and 'Love Is Blind' (2020-). On the work front, Ananya was last seen in 'CTRL.' Next, she has Karan Johar's 'Chand Mera Dil,' alongside Lakshay. Expected to hit theaters in 2025, it is a romantic drama. —ETimes

Overdose of emotions, drama, action

1990's
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Nanda Kumar CM
- **ACTORS** Arun, Rani Warad, Arun Kumar, Devu, Swapna Shettigar, and Suprith R
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 168 minutes

Nanda Kumar has tried to include all ingredients to entertain the audiences in his maiden film as a director, but ended up with an overdose of romance, sentiments and action. Its runtime is the main drawback because it tests audiences' patience. Maybe it is too much to ask for that he get it right in the first film itself. But he has failed to narrate the story aptly and he appears to have lost the control over the actors. For example, three scenes -- of a dream sequence, a half-saree ceremony and a booze party -- are just a pain to watch. The problem with the director is his failure to realise that such scenes do not add any value to the movie.

It is not that the movie has nothing to offer. The artwork adds value to the movie and cinematographer Halesh has done an excellent job behind the camera. Maharaj's music is lilting and the background score is very good. Among the songs, Male Haniye is melodious.

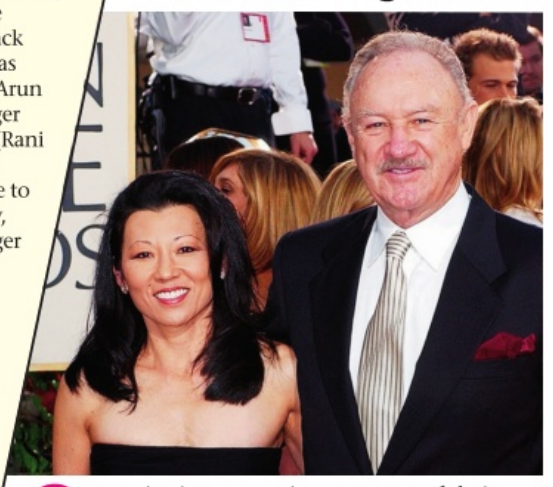
The movie begins with a scene where some people are found questioning a veteran director why he has taken a break from helming movies. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback scene narrating how Tiger has animosity towards a priest (Arun Kumar) since childhood. Tiger falls in love with Prathibha (Rani Warad), the daughter of the priest, but he has no courage to propose or express it. Finally, Prathibha comes close to Tiger and they decide to elope. What happens to both of them is what the movie 1990's is all about.

Arun, who makes debut as a hero, has tried his best to showcase his acting skills. Rani Warad walks away with all honours. Her dancing skills and gestures are a treat to watch. Arun Kumar, as a priest, is convincing.

The movie is worth a watch if you have ample amount of patience to sit through the runtime.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman, his wife and dog found dead in their home



Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman, his wife and their dog were found dead in their New Mexico home, authorities said Thursday.

Foul play was not suspected, but authorities did not release circumstances of their deaths and said an investigation was ongoing.

Hackman, 95, Betsy Arakawa, 63, and their dog were all dead when deputies entered their home to check on their welfare around 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Denise Avila said. The gruff-but-beloved Hackman was among the finest actors of his generation, appearing as villains, heroes and antiheroes in dozens of dramas, comedies and action films from the 1960s until his retirement in the early 2000s.

He was a five-time Oscar nominee who won for "The French Connection" in 1972 and "Unforgiven" two decades later. His death comes just four days before this year's ceremony.

Hackman met Arakawa, a classically trained pianist who grew up in Hawaii, when she was working part-time at a California gym in the mid-1980s, the New York Times reported in 1989. They soon moved in together, and by the end of the decade had bought their home in Santa Fe.

—AP

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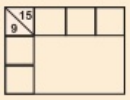
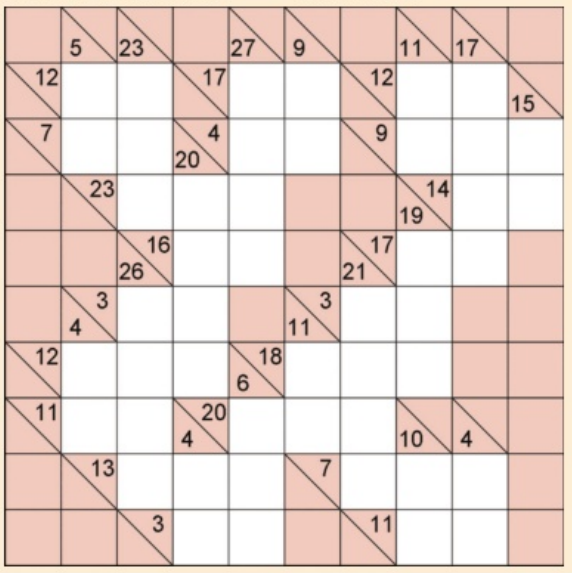
Kakuro

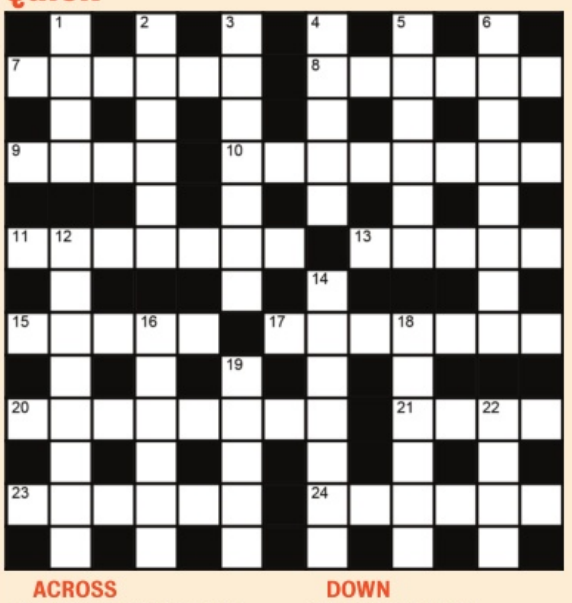
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Former German vessels (1-5)
8 An automobile fuel (6)
9 Unit of computer memory (4)
10 Soil deposited by a river (8)
11 Collected or piled up (7)
13 Not suitable (5)
15 Unjustly assume (5)
17 Source of misery (7)
20 National park between Mysore and Ooty (8)
21 Ninth month, abbr. (4)
23 Gambol (6)
24 A group of nine-"End Ena" anagram? (6)

DOWN

1 Follow orders (4)
2 Vacillates (6)
3 Attempted (7)
4 Muddle (5)
5 Unit of temperature (6)
6 Surmising (8)
12 General slaughter (8)
14 Brilliant red (7)
16 Impolitely (6)
18 Not famous or acclaimed (6)
19 Tiny particle (5)
22 Entreat or beg (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS U

PK QLY OEHF FL CX XHFRYN-PENFPZ, EZF XHFRYNPENFPZ.

Linemaro

If nothing lasts forever, will you be my nothing?

Mindchow

A thing is worth what it can do for you, not what you pay for it

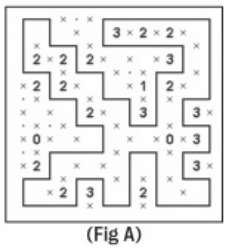
Joke of the day

What do you call two crows on a branch? Attempted murder

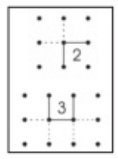
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

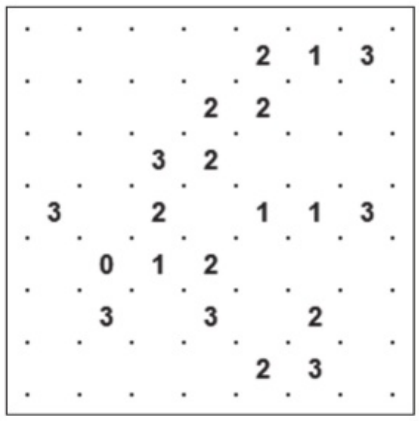


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

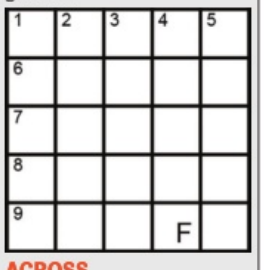


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 A sect; 6 Bah mo; 7 E bile; 8 Deler; 9 Fiery

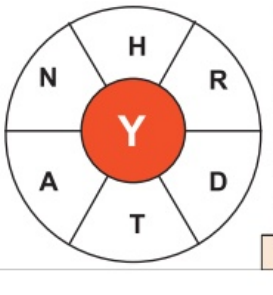
DOWN

1 Acerb; 2 Ale be; 3 Idols; 4 He Fit; 5 Me rye

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes this puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

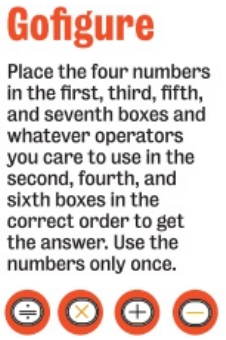
SudokuChallenge

			8		9		4	
2					1	3		
	6	4				1		
6	5			4				7
			9	8	7			
8				5			2	4
		7				4	5	
		5	6					9
	4		7		5			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



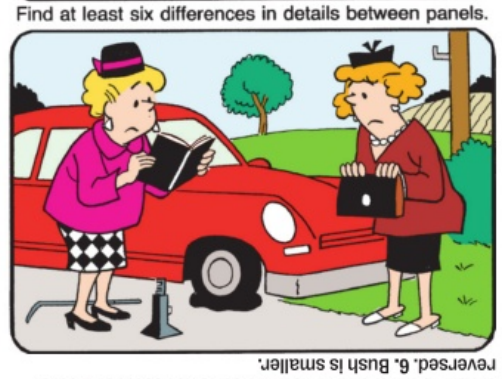
Easy = 7
3 4 4 4

Medium = 37
2 3 4 8

Hard = 40
2 7 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



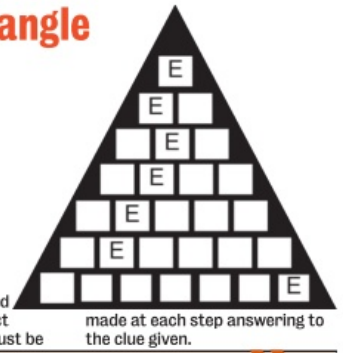
Differences: 1. License plate is missing. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Hair is different. 4. Rear wheel is not seen. 5. Tree is reversed. 6. Bush is smaller.

Riddler

I have given you 4 words. Beside each word is a series of letter groupings. Your task is to find the answer to the word on the left by choosing one letter from each of the letter groups to the right of each clue. Sight: vjj asi tys aai vob mnp
Spectacles: ple byn emn agw dls tar shj bsn cem
sff Artistic: aer sde gts htn mnh gej iot aiu abc
Cheat: dsf tyw aei ern oud lkk ies

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 ___tu Brute...
3 Decimal base
4 Not gross
5 Maxim
6 Irk
7 Give right to



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

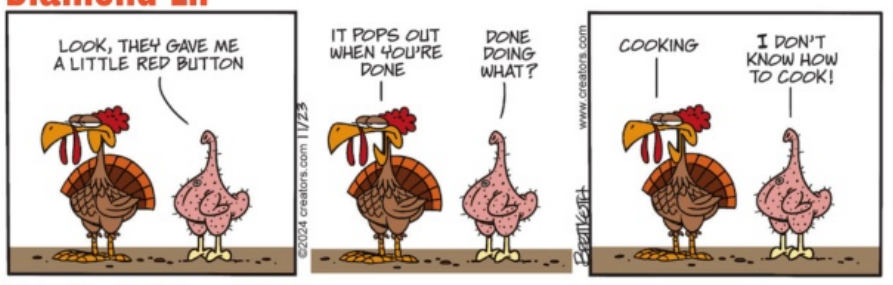
COMICS

Popeye

MY DEAR PATER ASKED ME TO PICK DESERT POSIES WHILE HE CONVERSES WITH THE SAILOR GENTLEMAN!
WHAT DID YA WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
MY DAUGHTER, SIR!
MY SWEET BUNNY IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I OWN THE BANK WHERE I WORK!
I HOPE THEIR TALK IS SHORT.... I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO MY PRE-FINISHING SCHOOL!
popeye.com

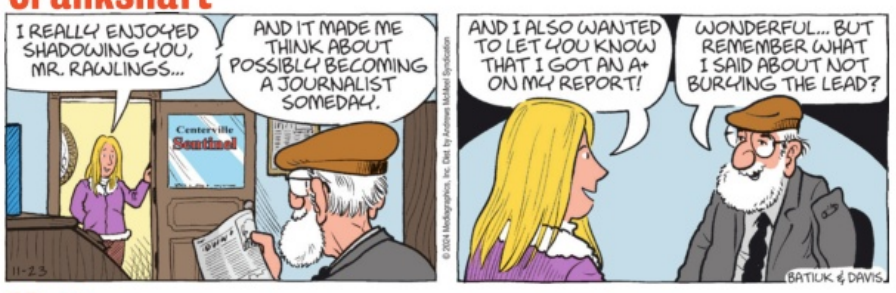
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil


LOOK, THEY GAVE ME A LITTLE RED BUTTON
IT POPS OUT WHEN YOU'RE DONE
DONE DOING WHAT?
COOKING
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO COOK!
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


I REALLY ENJOYED SHADOWING YOU, MR. RAWLINGS...
AND IT MADE ME THINK ABOUT POSSIBLY BECOMING A JOURNALIST SOMEDAY.
Centerville Sentinel
AND I ALSO WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I GOT AN A+ ON MY REPORT!
WONDERFUL... BUT REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT NOT BURYING THE LEAD?
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

MOOCH! LOOK, YOU CAN SEE MY BREATH!
THAT'S ODD...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE AN OLD SHOE OR A PIECE OF CHEESE.
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings vitality and good health. You will enjoy your work, but being overly straightforward may lead to unnecessary conflicts. Choose your words carefully to avoid family disputes. Controlling your temper will foster harmony at home and strengthen business partnerships. Job seekers may find promising opportunities, while couples should avoid dwelling on trivial matters.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your energy levels may be low today, and an old health issue might resurface, making you feel uneasy. Avoid adventurous activities or reckless driving. Legal matters should be settled out of court if possible. You may also start planning for an overseas trip.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your past investments may bring in profits today, turning previous losses into gains. Implementing new ideas will help your business grow, and success may come easily. An influential person might guide you toward achieving your goals. Lovebirds may make important decisions regarding marriage, and couples may receive good news about children. Job seekers are likely to find a suitable position.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Family support, especially from your spouse, will enhance domestic harmony. However, a heavy workload may prevent you from spending quality time with loved ones. You may attend a family gathering later in the day. On the professional front, you are likely to achieve a strong position, and government-related projects may finally take off.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your spiritual energy will uplift your mood today. Positive thinking will guide your decisions, and you may feel drawn toward spirituality or visit a religious place. Interest in occult sciences might grow. Be mindful of whom you share your thoughts with—only discuss with those who resonate with your perspective.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel nervous and impatient today, leading you to seek peace through spirituality or occult studies. Trust your intuition before making any major decisions. You might dive deep into a subject, gaining profound knowledge, or focus on research-related work.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
With the moon favorably positioned, you will experience positive momentum in both your professional and personal life. Financial gains from past investments are likely. Friends and relatives may reciprocate the support you have given them in the past. Your hard work will pay off, bringing you closer to success.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will do well, and your children's health will improve. You might consider making financial investments for their future. Your loyalty and dedication toward your job will be recognized. Job seekers may secure a position through references. You may also identify hidden enemies and, with divine blessings, successfully overcome their challenges.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may receive good news regarding a job opportunity today. Job seekers will be highly focused and determined to crack entrance exams through hard work. Singles may find their soulmate and get engaged. There is also a possibility of hearing joyful news related to childbirth.

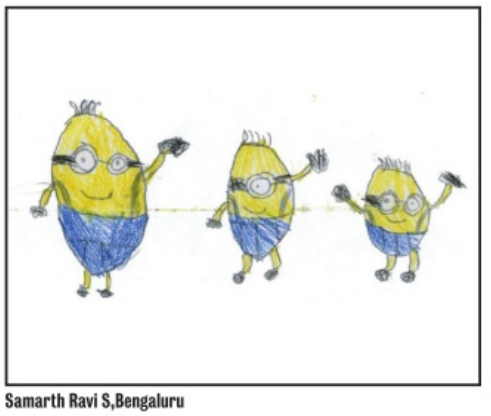
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
If you are planning to relocate, it would be wise to postpone the decision for now. Avoid making any new business investments today. However, by the evening, things will start to settle, and with wise advice from an elder, you will be able to manage any difficult situation effectively.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A short business trip may be on the horizon, bringing recognition and potential rewards for your efforts. Your social standing will improve, and you may receive good news from siblings. Job seekers looking for management roles are likely to succeed. Singles may get engaged.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessings from elders will bring happiness and financial stability. New income sources may arise, and you might plan a home renovation or expansion. A major business order could strengthen your family business. Exercise patience when signing contracts, and expect progress in previously delayed projects.

KIDZONE

Sanjanna V, Bengaluru



Samarth Ravi S,Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= -36÷3²-4(-4)+(-2)²
= -12²+16+4
= -24+20= -4

BULL'S EYE
dray, handy, hardy, HYDRANT, nary, randy, tardy, tray, yard, yarn

RIDDLER
Sight: VISION,
Spectacles: EYEGLASSES, Artistic: AESTHETIC & Cheat: SWINDLE

STRIKE OUT

R	O	A	D	A	D	T	E	S	T	D	A	C	E	
A	E	B	E	A	D	I	N	G	S					
D	U	D	E		B									
A		I												
R	A	P	E	P	E	N	I	T	E	N	T			
A	O		R	D		K	O	I		A				
D	I	S	B	A	N	D	S		N	C	O	S		
L	I	S	A		R	A	C	E	G	O	E	R		
B	A	L	I		C		R			A				
A	C	C	E	D	I	N	G		O	G	A	M		
F	I	N		N		E		S		T				
R	E	F	I	T		S	K	I	T	S				
	U		H		N		C		N	E	Z			

FAST FIVE

C	A	S	T	E
A	B	O	H	M
B	E	L	I	E
E	L	D	E	R
R	E	I	F	Y

QUICK

O	W		E	A		K		D						
U	B	O	A	T	S		O	I	E	S	E	L		
	E		Y		S		D		L		D			
B	Y	T	E		A	L	L	U	V	I	U	M		
	R		Y		E		I				C			
A	M	A	S	S	E	D		U	N	F	I	T		
	A		D		S				N					
U	S	U	R	P		S	C	O	U	R	G	E		
S		U		S		A			N					
B	A	N	D	I	P	U	R		S	E	P	T		
	C		E		L		U		R					
F	R	O	L	I	C		E	N	E	A	D			
	E		T	H	O	S		A		A		E		
D	E	B	E	A	D	I	N	G	S					

MENSA PUZZLE
If you want to be enthusiastic, act enthusiastic.

QUOTE UNCODE
11. Working through the diagram in columns, the value at the bottom of each column equals the sum of the top 2 numbers, minus the sum of the next 2 numbers.

SUDOKU

3	4	6	7	9	5	2	8	1
1	8	5	6	2	4	7	3	9
9	2	7	3	1	8	4	5	6
8	7	3	1	5	6	9	2	4
4	1	2	9	8	7	5	6	3
6	5	9	2	4	3	8	1	7
7	6	4	5	3	2	1	9	8
2	9	8	4	6	1	3	7	5
5	3	1	8	7	9	6	4	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Et, Ten, Nett, Tenet, Nettle, Entitle.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 3 + 4 – 4 = 7
Medium
4 x 8 + 2 + 3 = 37
Hard
5 x 9 – 7 + 2 = 40

LOOP

KAKURO

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